

Application No. 10/645646  
Reply to Office Action of January 18, 2006

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested. New claims 58-99 are presented. Claims 58 and 99 are supported, for example at page 9 of the specification. Claims 59-98 generally track previous dependent claims, it being noted that claim 81 includes features found in previous independent claim 39.

Claims 22, 42-52, 56 and 57 were rejected as anticipated by Toyosawa. Claims 53-55 were rejected as obvious over Toyosawa. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. Even assuming that the rejection's characterization of the product of this reference is correct, nothing in the reference suggests that the material should be or even could be used in a method in which portions of a skeleton structure are broken in erasing handwriting. As seen in the Abstract and cols. 1 and 2 of the reference, the reference intends to trap low molecular weight material in a three-dimensional network polymer. Therefore, the reference teaches that the network structure should be retained and in fact teaches away from an erasing method in which the skeleton structure is broken as set forth in claim 58.

Claims 3, 6-17, 23-26, 30 and 39-41 were rejected as obvious over Toyosawa in view of von Bonin. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. von Bonin is directed to a fire retardant structural sealant. Like Toyosawa, the reference clearly teaches away from a use in which a skeleton portion is broken in erasing handwriting, and thus fails to remedy the deficiencies of Toyosawa. Applicants are not conceding the correctness of the application of von Bonin to the specific features of the rejected claims.

Claims 22, 44, 47-52, 56 and 57 were rejected as anticipated by or obvious over Shimizu. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Shimizu is directed to tack free silicone gel moldings. This reference also discloses no use related to an erasing method in which portions of a skeleton structure of an eraser are broken, nor any property suggesting the suitability its products for such a method. Therefore, the reference does not disclose or suggest the invention of claim 58.

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Claim 22, 42-53, 56 and 57 were rejected as anticipated by or obvious over Giez. Claims 54 and 55 were rejected as obvious over this reference. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. This reference also fails to disclose any use related to an erasing method in which portions of a skeleton structure of an eraser are broken, nor any property suggesting the suitability its products for such a method. Therefore, Giez also fails to disclose or suggest the invention of claim 58.

Claims 22, 42, 44 and 46-52 were rejected as anticipated by or obvious over Imashiro. Claims 43, 54, and 55 were rejected as obvious over Imashiro. Claim 45 was rejected as obvious over Imashiro in view of Toyosawa. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. Like Toyosawa, Imashiro fails to disclose any use related to an erasing method in which portions of a skeleton structure of an eraser are broken, nor any property suggesting the suitability its products for such a method. Therefore, Imashiro, even considered with Toyosawa, fails to disclose or suggest the invention of claim 58.

Claims 22, 40-53, 56 and 57 were rejected as anticipated by or obvious over von Bonin. Claims 54 and 55 were rejected as obvious over this reference. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. As noted above, von Bonin does not disclose any use related to an erasing method in which portions of a skeleton structure of an eraser are broken, nor any property suggesting the suitability its products for such a method. Therefore, von Bonin does not anticipate or suggest the invention of claim 58.

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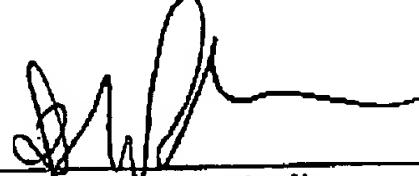
In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued on this case. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

HAMRE, SCHUMANN, MUELLER &  
LARSON, P.C.  
P.O. Box 2902-0902  
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903  
(612) 455-3800



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By: 

Douglas P. Mueller  
Reg. No. 30,300  
DPM/cmr